

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06014 261002Z

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ACTION SS-30

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O 260852Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3061

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6014

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, TW
SUBJECT: ROC NATIONAL OPERA TRoup VISIT TO US

REF: A) STATE 211342; B) TAIPEI 5986; V) TAIPEI 5927;
D) TAIPEI 4297; E) TAIPEI 4107 (EXDIS); F) TAIPEI
2958 (EXDIS) G) STATE 094524 (NODIS); H) STATE
093791

1. SUMMARY: SINCE DEPARTMENT WS NOTIFIED IN MAY THAT
OPERA TROUPE WOULD APPEAR AT SPOKANE AND TOUR US AFTER-
WARDS, EMBASSY BELIEVES GROC HAS MADE SINCERE EFFORT
TO COMPLY WITH OUR REQUEST AND RECENT PROBLEM PROBABLY STEMS
FROM POOR UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GROC
AGENCIES. EMBASSY PLANS TO REVIEW PROBLEM ON LOW-KEY
BASIS WITH MOFA AND TO CONTACT WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS
IN MOED TO OUTLINE NECESSARY PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE.
END SUMMARY:

2. BOTH ROC EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (REF H MAY 1974) AND
EMBASSY TAIPEI (REF D JULY 1974) HAD INFORMED DEPART-
MENT OPERA TROUPE WOULD BE APPEARING AT EXPO-UR SPOKANE
UNDER GROC SPONSORSHIP. ALTHOUGH DETAILED ITINERAY NOT
AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 23, REF D PROVIDED TENTATIVE
ITINERAY WITH APPROXIMATE DATES.

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3. EMBASSY BELIEVES MAY AND JULY DISCUSSIONS REFS D, F

AND H CONSTITUTE APPROPRIATE PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF OPERA
VISIT. GROC FAILED, HOWEVER, TO PROVIDE FINAL DE-
TAILED ITINERARY AT AN EARLY DATE AND TO APPLY PROMPTLY
FOR H PETITION. EMBASSY BELIEVES GROC'S PROBLEM WAS
POOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOED)
WHICH HANDLES TROUP AND MOFA.

4. ALTHOUGH GORC FAILED TO NOTIFY US IN CASE OF VARIETY
TROUP, WE BELIEVE THIS ALSO REFLECTS POOR INTERNAL
COORDINATION. MOED APPARENTLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH PRIOR
NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AND VISA PROBLEMS INVOLVED.

5. EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON COPING WITH THESE PROBLEMS
OUTLINED IN REF E. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS
LATEST CASE IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN INTENTIONAL EFFORT TO DIS-
REGARD OUT STANDING REQUEST AND DO NOT BELIEVE DEMARCH IS
NECESSARY AT THIS TIME. OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO
INSURE PRIOR NOTIFICATION AND PROMPT VISA REQUESTS IN
THE FUTURE. THEREFORE, POL COUNSELOR WILL REVIEW
PROBLEM WITH MOFA ON A LOW KEY BASIS. WE WILL ALSO HAVE
A USIS OFFICER, WHO IS IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH MOED, AND
A CONSULAR OFFICER MEET WITH APPROPRIATE WORKING-LEVEL
MOED OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AND OTHER OFFICIAL
TOURS. WE WILL EXPLAIN THE NECESSITY AND IMPORTANCE OF
PRIOR NOTIFICATION, TIMELY PREPARATION OF H PETITIONS
AND EARLY SUBMISSION OF DETAILED ITINERARY -- AT LEAST
TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

6. WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT REVIEW CONTROL PROCEDURES
OUTLINED REF E, PARA 5. UNGER

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